In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Each recess 38 and 39 is further configured to provide a bearing surface upon which and relative to which an associated ear-like projection 88 and 89 is self-aligning. Each leaflet 48 and 49 with its ear-like projections 88 and 89 in the prosthesis 21 is allowed to swing pivotally and independently with restricted rotary oscillatory movements between a fully open and a fully closed position inclusive, and these oscillatory movements occur along the pivot axis of each leaflet 48 and ~~48~~ 49 between its respective pair of ear-like projections 88 and 89. As those skilled in the art will readily appreciate, varying pivot excursional movements can occur during leaflet oscillations responsive to applied differential fluid (blood) pressure in a surgically implanted prosthesis 21 with the direction of blood flow being shown by illustrative arrow 70 in Fig. 11. It will be appreciated that the bearing blocks 33, 34 and the cooperatively associated leaflets 48, 49 make use of the well-established principle of "self-aligning spherical bearing." The flattened ear-like projections 87, 89 reduce frictional losses relative to adjacent surface portions of the recesses 38, 39. Smooth pivotal movements are achieved with least effort, and with minimal loss of energy during leaflet 48, 49 oscillations. Close tolerances are achieved and are much preferred. The bell-type mouth associated with the annular structure 22 for inlet and outlet achieves smooth entry and exit for blood passage.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The mold assembly 54 is here shown in a simplified form. The formation and usage of molds for plastics is well known to those skilled in the art. The mold assembly 54 includes a lower mold portion 55 which cooperatively associates with an upper mold portion 56 along a transversely (relative to the mold assembly 54) extending joint or parting line 57. Located between inner peripheral edge portions of the upper portion 56 and the lower portion 55 is a split ring structure 60 that is provided with upper and lower ridge ribs 69a and 69b that cooperatively engage receiving pockets defined in each of the inner peripheral edge portions of the upper portion 56 and the lower portion 55. The upper portion 56 and the lower portion ~~56~~ 55 together with the split ring structure 60 define a mold cavity 58 for the annular structure 22.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The split ring structure 60 is divided into a half 60a and a half 60b. As seen, for example, in Fig. 12, a medial opposed outside edge region of each half 60a and 60b of the split ring structure 60 is fixed by welding (preferred) or the like to a different retaining arm 100a and 100b (four separate arms in all). The arms 100a and 100b are each similarly shaped, preferably hemi-cylindrical and are adapted abut against one another lengthwise along a diameter to define a combined cylindrical configuration when abutting. When the arms 100a and 100b in the assembled mold assembly 54 are clamped together in such an abutting relationship, the split ring

60 is locked (held) in a fixed relationship as is needed to complete the definition of the cavity 58. Conventional holding and clamping means (not shown) are employed to hold in assembled combination the lower portion 55, the upper portion 56, and the split ring structure 60.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

After the molding of an annular structure 22 in the cavity 58, the clamping assembly 52 is separated from the bearing blocks 33 and 34 and the leaflets 48 and 49, and in the mold assembly 54 then the upper portion 56 and the lower portion 55 of the mold assembly 54 are separated and the split ring 60 is separated into halves 60a and 60b, thereby to enable separation and removal of the molded annular ring structure 22 from the cavity 58 together <u>with</u> the components now associated with the annular structure 22 including the blocks 33 and 34 and the leaflets 48 and 49. The annular structure 22 as thus formed (molded) is associated and connected with the bearing blocks 33 and 34 and the leaflets 48 and 49, thereby to obtain a completed prosthesis 21.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 16 with the following amended paragraph:

The spacing between, and the orientation of, the arms 63 and 64 is preferably such that the foot 65, the axis of the screw 66 and the foot 67 (that is associated with the screw 66) lie approximately in and along ~~along~~ the above indicated transverse diameter hypothetical plain. Thus, each of the bearing blocks 33, 34, as the case may be, can be positioned by a different C-

clamp structure 61 between the foot 65 on arm 63 and the foot 67 on screw 66 with the flat face if foot 67 being medially adjacent to a different exterior face 41, 42 and each foot 65 being adjacent to a different interior face 36, 37. Each bearing block 33, 34 is thus locatable at, and positionable in, a window 31, 32, respectively, of the annular structure 22 defined by the cavity 58. Auxiliary mechanical positioning and measuring means (not shown) may be employed, if desired, as those skilled in the art will readily appreciate, to achieve precise positioning and spacing of the pyrolytic carbon components, within selected tolerances, preferably before these components are clamped by clamping assembly 52 components in desired positions prior to molding of the annular ring structure 22. Thus, by adjustment of the position of the foot 67 of an associated clamp 61, each of the bearing blocks 33 and 34 is positioned, held and clamped in a desired position between the outer terminal end portions of each arm 63 and 64 of a C-clamp structure 61 with the exterior face 41 and 42 adjacent the foot 67 and the interior face 36 and 36 adjacent foot 65, respectively.

In the Drawings:

The attached sheet of replacement drawings includes a change in Fig. 4. This sheet replaces the original sheet identified as sheet 3 of the original seven sheets of drawings.

In Fig. 4, the sectioning of the component identified as 22 is corrected to conform to the specification.

Formal drawings corresponding to the replacement sheet will be submitted when the replacement sheet is approved and the application is allowed.

Attachment: Replacement sheet (informal) for drawing sheet 3.

Annotated sheet showing changes for drawing sheet 3.